

Bits of Gold

MONTANA TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 - 406-444-2064 - 800-332-3400

SUMMER 1996



PATRONS EVALUATE NARRATORS



Thirteen patrons plus two members of the standing audition committee helped to evaluate the volunteer narrators who record books for the Montana Cassette Recording Program. Florence Wood and her daughter Ila Nieman (Stevensville), Nina Russell and Helen Driskill (Kalispell), Betty Lou Berg and Helen Casey (Butte), Dan Burke and Jim Marks (Missoula), Cindy Harvey (Libby), Ted Robbins and Kay Kjellstrom (Great Falls), John Parker and John DeHaas (Bozeman), Myrle Tompkins and Roy Kallin (Helena), and Judy Neely (Havre) listened to and commented on the overall style, quality, and acceptability of the tapes.

Their comments were articulate, funny, helpful, thoughtful, critical, and generally the kind of feedback that motivates readers who want to improve their skill in narration. Examples: "...He reads so well, we were able to form visual pictures." One narrator's voice seemed "too young for the story," commented one evaluator. The

evaluator added, "But by the end of the story, she seemed to be growing older, her voice now sounds more mature. Maybe it was the sex scene that did it!" Still another: "I found this voice a slight effort to listen to--like it needed to be "fine-tuned". "Maybe he is too close to the microphone. Slightly raspy. His reading skill is very good." And finally, "This book was most enjoyable for two reasons. First, the author wrote a good book. Secondly, the reader enjoyed the story and was passionate reading it. The combination was easy listening."

Gen Allen, Volunteer Coordinator and Studio Manager, says "Our recording teams have said they wish they had more feedback about their work from patrons. This is a great start!"

If you have comments (positive or negative) you wish to make on the books recorded in the Montana Cassette Recording Program, feel free to contact the library (1-800-332-3400) and we will pass them on to the recording team.

USE IT OR LOOSE IT

In order to retain the use of the playback equipment from the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL), you must borrow at least one book per year or subscribe to National Library Service (NLS) direct subscription magazines. The MTBL's automated system will list you as inactive if you haven't used the service for three months.

You may use the equipment in conjunction with textbooks received from Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, but it does not constitute "use of the library" since RFB&D is not affiliated with NLS.

If you do not wish to receive materials from MTBL you need to return the cassette player. The library can provide you with a list of sources to purchase 4-track cassette players.

MACULAR DEGENERATION

Macular Degeneration International is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering scientific research in this disease, while also providing educational and support programs to help people with macular degeneration cope with their vision-related problems. Membership and annual subscription information are available by contacting:

Macular Degeneration International
2968 West Ina Road #106
Tucson, AZ 85741, 1-800-393-7634

PROBLEMS WITH BESTSELLERS

Bestsellers are simply books that have sold well in bookstores. Because public taste varies so much, the category of bestsellers covers a wide variety of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction. These books can be about almost anything.

Please let us know if you want fiction and/or nonfiction titles in the bestseller category.



When you indicate you wish to receive bestsellers, you may get **ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING!** If you enjoy reading books currently on the bestseller list but don't want the varied assortment of titles in this broad classification, it is best to ask for a specific title. You should be aware that many bestsellers contain strong language, sex, or violence.

MACHINE REPAIR

When you return a machine to the library for replacement, it's important that you call and tell us of your need. Call toll-free 1-800-332-3400 or in the Helena area (406)444-2064. If you put a note with the returned equipment, please follow up with a phone call if you need a replacement. If equipment is returned without notification, it will not automatically be replaced.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sandra Jarvie and Carolyn Meier attended the National Conference of Librarians serving Blind and Physically Handicapped in Pittsburgh, PA on April 28th - May 2nd. This meeting is held every two years by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It gives librarians in this field an opportunity to converse with staff from NLS, discuss problems, solutions and learn of future developments. It also gives the librarians the chance to pass on comments or concerns of our patrons in the area of reading material, equipment and service.

DIALOGUE

Blindskills, Inc announces the merge of their two magazines, Dialogue and Lifeprints. The articles are written by people who have been blind all their lives as well as the newly blind who share their skills and experiences.

Dialogue is published quarterly. The annual subscription/donation will be \$25.00 and is available in braille, large print and cassette.

Subscription forms and writer's guideline can be obtained from: Blindskills, Inc., P.O. Box 5181, Salem, Oregon 97304-0181; Phone (503)581-4224 or Fax (503)581-0178.

1995 CATALOG

The new 1995 Cassette Book Catalog is now available. This catalog lists all the cassette books produced by NLS in 1995. Also available are several newer specialty catalogs. they are:

- Pioneer & Frontier Stories
- Romance & Love Stories
- More Mysteries
- Classics
- Science Fiction

Call at 1-800-332-3400 for a free copy of any of these catalogs.

MONTANA OUTDOORS

The Montana Outdoors magazine is now available on cassette from the Talking Book Library. Montana Outdoors is the official publication of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and features articles on hunting, fishing and the outdoors.



DVS

If you haven't been receiving Descriptive Videos [DVS] regularly it may be because you don't have any requests in your file. The DV program is a request only program; DV's are not automatically selected as books are. Please contact the library with a list of descriptive videos you would like to receive.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY HONORS VOLUNTEERS

The more than 80 volunteers who serve the Montana State Library were honored at a dinner held on Friday, May 31. Mrs. Freddie Peaco, Government Information and Volunteer Specialist from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Washington, DC., was the guest speaker. Peaco highlighted the important role volunteers play in providing library service to people who are blind or physically handicapped. She paid special tribute to the Telephone Pioneers, who contribute many hours repairing the playback equipment used by the Talking Book

Library patrons.

JoAnn Mayala was honored as the "Narrator of the Year". JoAnn has been a volunteer for more than 8 years and has recorded 17 books.

Bev Hill received the 'We Can Count on You' award for her willingness to tackle any task that needs to be done. Volunteers recognized for 5 years of service were: Mary Nichols, Edith Tanna, Ray Venzke, Cyd Slattery, John DeHaas, Millie Huxley, Ruth Ann Massey, Bob Vanisko, Ted Robbins, Ed Hartman.

In 1995 volunteers donated 14,900 hours of service to the Montana State Library.

**MONTANA TALKING BOOK LIBRARY
1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE
P.O. Box 201800
HELENA, MT 59620-1800**

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND

This publication is also available on audio-cassette.